

Application No. 09/605,085

Response to Office Action of August 26, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action of August 26, 2004, claims 1-7, 9-19, 21 and 22 stand rejected. In the Office Action Summary, claims 3 and 5 were listed as objected to. However, a close reading of the Office Action reveals that the objected to claims are 3 and 7 (for example, that is specifically stated on page 12 of the Office Action). Examiner D'Agosta confirmed that claims 3 and 7 are the objected to claims via a phone call on September 28, 2004. In this response claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3. Claims 3 and 13-22 have been cancelled. New claims 23-30 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. No new subject matter is being added by this response.

I. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

In the Office Action of August 26, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 3 and 7 would each be allowable if written in independent form and including all limitations from the base claim and any intervening claims.

A. Claim 3.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, which originally was dependent solely on claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is an independent claim, which includes objected to claim 3 and claim 1, the base claim (there are no intervening claims). Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 4-7 and 9-12 depend from allowable claim 1; therefore, claims 2, 4-7 and 9-12 are allowable.

B. Claim 7.

New claim 23 is claim 7, rewritten in independent form, and includes the limitation of the claim 1, the base claim, and claim 6, the intervening claim,. Therefore, claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

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New claims 24-30 depend from allowable claim 23. Therefore, claims 24-30 are in condition for allowance.

The addition of new claims 23-30 does not result in any charges for additional claims. As originally filed, applicants paid for 2 independent claims and 22 claims total. After this amendment, there are 2 independent claims pending and 18 total claims.

II. CONCLUSION.


For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

While no other fees are believed due, the Applicant hereby requests that any other required fee to maintain pendency of this case, except for the Issue Fee, be charged to Deposit Account 50-2091.

Respectfully submitted,

September 29, 2004

Date

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